GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2009
ACTION TAKEN ON ARC RECOMMENDATIONS ON URBAN POOR
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any exhaustive survey to identify the total urban poor as recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action proposed to be taken on the recommendations of ARC in this behalf?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 96 FOR 20-02-2009 REGARDING ACTION TAKEN ON ARC RECOMMENDATIONS ON URBAN POOR.

(a)&(b): The Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor as well as State-specific poverty lines from time to time based on the national sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The survey of `below poverty line` people in urban areas is carried out by the State Governments on the basis of State-specific urban poverty lines worked out by the Planning Commission.

(c): The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended an exhaustive survey to identify the urban poor to be carried out within one year. The Parameters to be used for such identification should be simple and easily comprehensible, allowing objective measurement without the use of discretion. The basic parameters should be spelt out at the national level. The identification should be based on a door-to-door survey by the survey teams including at least one person from the Area Sabha concerned. The urban poor so identified may be issued multi-utility identity cards for availing benefits under all poverty alleviation programmes.

Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) as well as Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), States/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been requested by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation to conduct socio-economic surveys for the development of Slums, Urban Poverty and Livelihood Profiles of the poor in the cities identified under basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and select other cities/towns covered/proposed to be covered under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) (in a phased manner). Necessary formats have also been issued by the Ministry in this regard to the States/ULBs. The Ministry has launched a scheme called Urban Statistics for HR & Assessments (USHA) under which financial support is provided for the conduct of various surveys.